



President's Corner

—By Robert KA5WSS

For many, a new year means a set of resolutions for personal change. What changes, if any, are you planning to make in 2022? For me, starting in 2021 I began the process of getting my CW speed back up. I was seeking to add another mode with which to make contacts from my very humble home station. More on this next month.

Some people resolve to learn something new. The ARRL Learning Network provides a convenient website to browse educational content about a number of Amateur Radio topics. If you'd like to expand your Ham Radio horizons online look for the article later in this issue.

Your club officers also work to tweak things with VOMARC to try and make things better for the membership. Last year we initiated the policy of providing one year of free membership to applicants who take their VE exam with our own VE team led by Elizabeth (N6LY). The most recent change has been a few tweaks to the weekly net radio script, which you can see detailed in an article later in this edition.

Several members have expressed an interest in listening in on the monthly (mostly) board meetings held via Zoom. We'll open that up to those interested. I hope this would also

encourage more members to help with the running of club business.

Part [97.1 of the FCC rules](#) which govern Amateur Radio say in part, "Encouragement and improvement of the amateur service through rules which provide for *advancing skills* in both the communication and technical phases of the art". (emphasis mine) Advancing skills means learning new things. So why not pick up a facet of Amateur Radio that intrigues you and start trying something new this New Year!

NEXT MEETING

Wed, January 19, 2022, 7:30pm
Zoom meeting room info will be emailed later.

Topic: **Internet Tools for DXers**
Presenter: **David Piersall (N6ORB)**

Minutes of the Dec 15 Meeting

Meeting started: 7:32 PM

Attendees: N7TSQ (Joe), KB6CLV (Simon), W8EWL (John), N7PIB (Sanford), N6LY (Elizabeth), W1EJ (Ed), NS6B (Bob), KG6QNT (Eileen), WD6BOR (Darrel), NJ6E (Stan), WB6TMH (Mike), KG6N (Frank), KE6HID (Andrew), KA5WSS (Robert)

Guest: W7RTA (Charlie)

BUSINESS AND OFFICER REPORTS

Adopt meeting minutes as published in the newsletter. Motion made and seconded – Minutes approved as written

OFFICER REPORTS

VE Liaison - Elizabeth, N6LY - Next VE session likely at the end of January. More details to follow.

Radio Officer - Mike, WB6TMH Continues to have sessions with high school electronics club members.

Weekly Net Control

This month - Darrel (WD6BOR)

Next month - Robert (KA5WSS)

Trustee - Darrel, WD6BOR - KD6RC & K6BIV fixed the club's DMR repeater. They diagnosed it as a software issue, not a hardware issue. The club purchased gift cards for both totalling \$150 for their efforts.

President - Robert, KA5WSS - VHS tapes from Jim's house that contained topics related to VOMARC history have been received at a digitization facility.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dues are due You can [rejoin now](#) on the VOMARC website.

Members discussed a few ideas to help spice up the weekly net. We will investigate how to incorporate these into our routine.

Andrew, KE6HID, mentioned that the new [Droid Star app](#) (available on iPhone and Android devices) is a way to get involved with DMR prior to getting a DMR radio.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next month's meeting topic: Internet Tools for DXers
- Dave N6ORB

Mystery Box drawing - postponed until in-person meetings are possible and we can be sure COVID-19 is not one of the contents. Jack, K6ZMF, has it for now.

Fremont Peak (POTA and SOTA) K-1151 11:00 AM tomorrow W1EJ

Meeting Topic - N6LY and K6YD's Parks on the Air (POTA) activation on Alcatraz Island by Liz (N6LY)

Meeting Adjourned at 7:33 PM

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Weekly Net Changes

We've modified the [weekly net script](#) slightly. The changes, though minor, tweak things a little bit and we'll make changes as warranted going forward. We encourage every net control op to download a copy when it's your turn to run the show.

The changes made are:

1. Ask for emergency and priority traffic earlier in the script. If there's an emergency she/he should not have to wait until later.
2. State club meetings are held via Zoom. We'll change this back once things return to normal. Up to this point net control ops have had to ad lib this part of the text.
3. Added text to solicit questions for discussion toward the end of the script.

Let us know what you think of the changes and whether you have any other suggestions.

As net control for January, I tried out the new script this month. When no questions were posed by attendees I asked my own. On Jan. 5th I asked what was the first year each participant was licensed. The years ranged between 1954 and 2018 with the average being 1984. Interestingly, John (W8EWL) has technically both the longest (since 1954) and shortest (since 2019) tenure as a licensed operator depending on whether one takes into account an expired license period in between!

On Jan. 12th I asked which was the highest frequency band people have made contacts on. The answers ranged between 440 MHz and 10 GHz! 440 MHz and 1.2 GHz were the two most common answers.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

VE Liaison News

—By Elizabeth N6LY, VOMARC VE Liaison

Good News for those who want to get licensed for HAM Radio, we have confirmed test dates for 2022. This is also a good time to upgrade, if you want to move into HF and or expand your reach.

Everyone who tests at one of our sessions will receive free 1-year membership to our club.

We also plan on adding a session in April, in conjunction with our HAMFEST. Date and location to be determined for that session.

Saturday, January 29

Saturday , July 30

Saturday, October 29

Since we are still having COVID surges, we are still limiting the number of testers and requiring reservations.

Location: Sonoma Police Station EOC room 175
1st St W, Sonoma

Time: 10:00 AM and 12:30 PM if there is enough demand (**Reservations required**)

Contact: Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey (N6LY)

[Email: n6ly.emm@gmail.com](mailto:n6ly.emm@gmail.com)

We will only hold two sessions, if we fill the first session and still have candidates wishing to test. Reserve your spot now for January. It is right around the corner.

To ensure the health and safety of all applicants and examiners, for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic the following requirements also apply. There will be no exceptions to these requirements.

All candidates must reserve a spot ahead of time via email. See contact info above. Sessions limited to six applicants at a time. **All participants must wear a mask (covering both the mouth and nose).**

Candidates must bring their own pens and pencils. Chairs and desks will be sanitized before each session.

Hope to see you at our next test session.

Auxiliary Communications Service

The Auxiliary Communications Service, or ACS, is a network of amateur radio operators who make use of their communications skills and equipment in time of emergency to provide tactical and logistical communications for public safety agencies such as local police, fire, municipal and county disaster response organizations. They also help staff Red Cross shelters and other relief group efforts when needed.

Often in area and wide spread disasters, the official communications channels are saturated and local cell towers and land lines cease to be available. Ham radio operators step up to provide those critical communications services in time of need.

Radio operators receive training through an on-line FEMA course and then participate in local training to learn the skills necessary to integrate smoothly into the local ACS. Members practice net skills weekly through county-wide and local nets.

Sonoma County currently holds the county net on Monday evenings at 7:00 pm local time on the 146.73 repeater. The local nets are held after the county net to pass information to the local disaster response teams. The Sonoma Valley weekly net is on Mondays at 7:30 pm local time on the local 145.205 repeater.

The Sonoma Valley ACS membership is down to four active members. In the event of a local emergency, that wouldn't be enough members to staff all the necessary agency operations. VOMARC members who are interested in helping with emergency communications can

contact Moe KI6JNU: modesto.lanes@gmail.com and tell him you would like to be part of the ACS team.

It's a rewarding way to use your radio skills to serve your community.

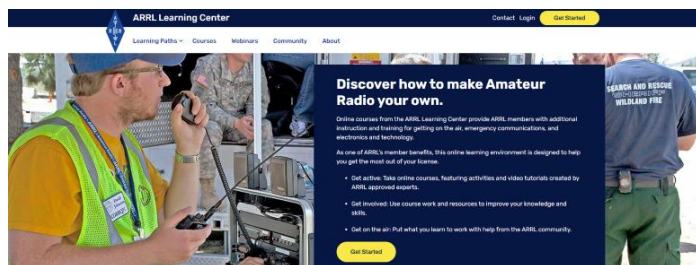
You are encouraged to check in to the local net as a guest and to listen in on the county net to learn more about how they are operated.

—Submitted by Darrel WD6BOR

ARRL Learning Center

Are you still looking for a New Year's resolution for 2022? Learning something new is always a popular choice. The recently launched [ARRL Learning Center](#) provides an easy way to search for new topics to learn about and to keep track of what you've mastered as you go along. Yes, YouTube has an enormous number of Ham Radio videos from which to choose. But, it's not as easy to get a quick glance of what you've already seen and what you've queued up to see on the site. The ARRL Learning Center makes this easier.

To start, simply navigate to the learning center main page and log in with your ARRL website account credentials. I found that the site occasionally loses track of your login. When this happens just press the Account link on the top of the page and login again. Hopefully this is just a temporary quirk of the new system.



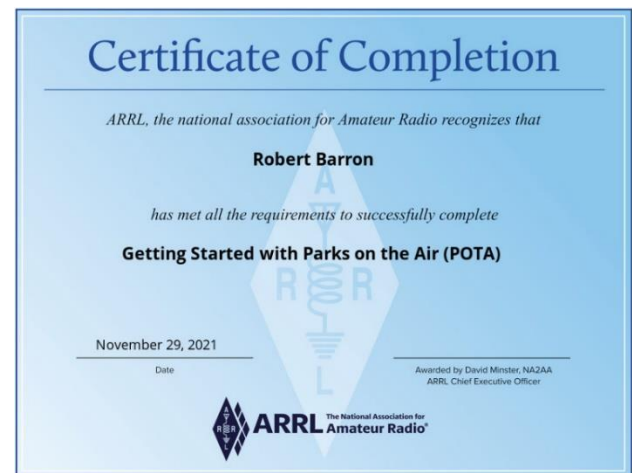
There are two types of content available. Webinars are single videos on a given topic without a testing component. These are divided into three main categories – On The Air,

Emergency Communications and Electronics & Technology. On The Air webinars cover such topics as QSLing, digital modes such as FT8 and contesting.

Courses are videos which sometimes feature a short, simple test after videos. They typically include multiple videos which break up the content into bite size pieces. Course topics include Park on the Air, Emergency Communications and Satellites. Also included are Dave Casler's (KE0OG) popular online video series for the Technician, General and Extra examinations.

You can keep track of your progress for courses and webinars that you have started and finished watching. Each entry in the Courses tab on the account page provides a progress bar indicator. Note that all videos in webinars categories are treated here as a single "course".

Finished courses (as opposed to webinars) may also have certificates of completion available for downloading:



The League is expecting to expand the number of courses and webinars as it pushes Hams to start on a path of lifelong learning. As of this moment there are 20 courses and 30 webinars available for viewing. So fire up your browser to go learn something new in 2022. Then, just as importantly, fire up your radios and put your new found knowledge to practical use.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

DXpedition to the Austral Islands Planned

A group of experienced DXers are planning to activate the Austral Islands in the Pacific this April. From April 16th through the 28th the team will work CW, SSB and digital modes from 160-10M. The Austral Islands currently sits as the 60th most wanted DXCC entity on ClubLog's most wanted list.



—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Misc

- The minutes from the [January VOMARC Board Meeting](#) are available online.
- VOMARC member Joe Troiano just exchanged his original KN6PRQ callsign for W9MX.
- According to a post from their official Twitter account, Icom has [started development on Amateur Radio gear that covers the 2.4 and 5.6 GHZ bands](#). You'll have to translate the text from Japanese in your browser.
- After 76 editions, the [World Radio and TV Handbook will cease publication](#). Many Hams, including myself, got started in radio by referring to it as we listened to radio stations around the world, ultimately building up to an Amateur Radio license.
- SpaceX's Starlink wireless Internet service has gotten a lot of buzz lately. The flat pizza

shaped antenna can't accept snow accumulation without performance degrading. Engineers solved that problem by adding a heating element to melt it off. According to a [Gizmodo article](#), the side effect of this solution is cats who've discovered the disk makes for a toasty place to take a rest.



From a recent Benicia ARC Twitter post: "I am often asked how radio works. Well, you see, wire telegraphy is like a very long cat. You yank his tail in New York and he meows in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? Now, radio is exactly the same, except that there is no cat." - Albert Einstein. StarLink begs to differ!

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

Parks on the Air Photos

—Submitted by Elizabeth N6LY



Jan, 2022



Jan, 2022

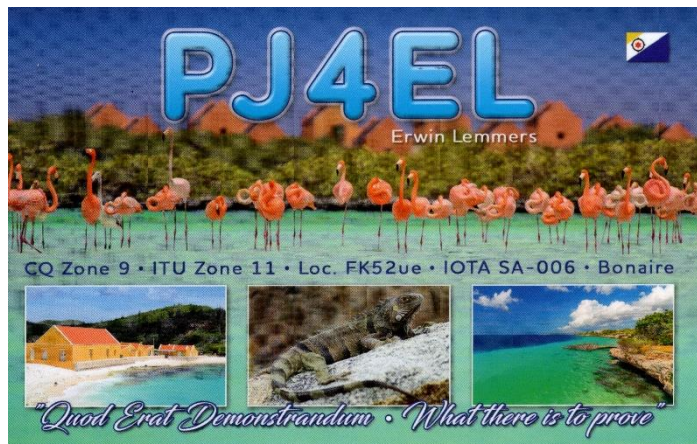


DEC, 2021

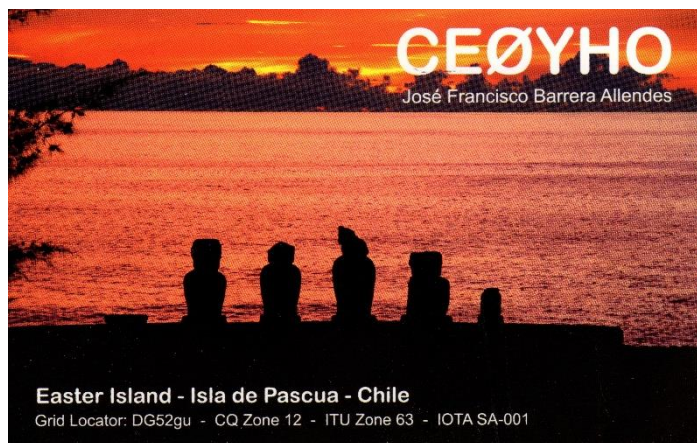
QSL Card Inbox



I worked HK3X in Colombia using FT8 during a 10M opening in 2020. Hopefully, we'll see more of those with Cycle 25.



I worked PJ4EL on 15M and 20M using FT8 in 2020 and 2021 respectively. Both contacts were made with my home station.



An All Time New One (ATNO) for me with this card confirming a QSO with CE0YHO on Easter Island. The contact took place on 20M in 2020 using FT8.

—Submitted by Robert KA5WSS

THE VOMARC WIRELESS

VOLUME 26 EDITION 1

A publication of VOMARC, the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club – W6AJF

Frank C. Jones – W6AJF

Honorary President in Perpetuity

CAST OF CHARACTERS

Robert Barron KA5WSS – President

Ed Jacobson, W1EJ – Vice President

Dave Dammuller, KD6FIL – Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Miller, WB6TMH – Radio Officer

Moe Llanes, KI6JNU – ACS Unit Leader

Elizabeth Morris-Mowrey, N6LY – VE Liaison

Darrel Jones, WD6BOR – Station Trustee for W6AJF

Eileen Adams, KG6QNT – Editor

Robert Barron, KA5WSS – Webmeister

"Receipt of the Wireless is one of the most sought after benefits of membership in VOMARC."—S. Marler

WEB PAGE: <http://www.vomarc.org/>

Nets are held every Wednesday night at 19:30 (7:30 P.M.) local, except meeting nights on the 145.350 repeater, -600 kHz, PL 88.5 Hz.

Breakfast Nets are held every Tuesday and Saturday morning at 7:30 AM on the 146.205, +600, PL 88.5 Hz repeater.

Comments and submissions of material may be sent to:

Eileen@vom.com

—or—

Valley of the Moon ARC, Inc.

C/O Sonoma Police Department

175 First Street West

Sonoma, CA 95476

**2022 ACS
NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	MOE	KI6JNU
FEBRUARY	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
MARCH	SCOTT	KJ6QIQ
APRIL	JIM	K6UUW
MAY	DICK	KF6FZM
JUNE	MOE	KI6JNU
JULY		
AUGUST	BILL	KJ6EIG
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	FK6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

**2021 VOMARC
NET CONTROL ASSIGNMENTS**

	Name	Call
JANUARY	ROBERT	KA5WSS
FEBRUARY	DARREL	WD6BOR
MARCH	MOE	KI6JNU
APRIL	DAVE	KD6FIL
MAY	ED	W1EJ
JUNE	FRANK	KG6N
JULY	ED	W1EJ
AUGUST	CARL	N6TTV
SEPTEMBER	SAM	W5LTP
OCTOBER	DICK	KF6FZM
NOVEMBER	MIKE	WB6TMH
DECEMBER	DARREL	WD6BOR

VOMARC MEMBERSHIP 2022

Membership Dues: \$15/year individual; \$5/year family member at same address.

VOMARC encourages its members to join the ARRL. More information is available at www.arrl.org.

QST is available to blind and physically handicapped individuals on audio cassette from the Library of Congress, National Library Service for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. Call 1-800-424-8567.

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Address: _____ APT: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

Name: _____ CALL: _____ EMAIL: _____

VOMARC Membership: Complimentary with Class—Date: _____

Membership Moment, From the Database Queen:

Dues may be mailed to VOMARC in care of the Sonoma Police Department, 175 1st St West, CA 95476, or brought to the next meeting. Your check should be made payable to: **VOMARC**.